

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An apparatus for body motion steering control for water craft, said water craft having a bow, a port side and a starboard side, wherein the water craft is propelled by an outboard motor, said apparatus comprising:
 - a. a seat body having swivel means permitting rotation of said seat body about a first vertical axis, wherein said swivel means is mounted to a stationery base platform, and wherein the seat body has a bottom surface, and further wherein the seat body is adapted for receiving body motion commands;
 - b. means for transmitting said body motion commands from the seat body to said outboard motor;
 - c. means for controlling the rotation of the seat body; and,
 - d. means for translating the body motion commands into steering commands for the outboard motor.
2. The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the seat body comprises:
 - a. a horizontal seating platform having a left side and a right side, said horizontal seating platform contoured for receiving the buttocks of an operator;

- b. a vertical left side member fixed to said left side of the horizontal seating platform, wherein said vertical left side member is adjacent to the left thigh of an operator and contoured to receive the contour of the left thigh of an operator;
- c. a vertical right side member fixed to said right side of the horizontal seating platform, said vertical right side member positioned adjacent to the right thigh of an operator and contoured to receive the contour of the right thigh of an operator, and;
- d. a backrest fixed to the horizontal seating platform, said backrest adapted for pivoting about a first horizontal axis.

3. The apparatus as claimed in claim 2, wherein said swivel means comprises a first swivel body co-axial with said first vertical axis and a second swivel body also co-axial with the first vertical axis.

4. The apparatus as claimed in claim 3 wherein:

- a. said first swivel body comprises:
 - i. a first rectangular lower mounting plate mounted by mounting means to the stationery base;
 - ii. a first rectangular upper mounting plate; and,

- iii. a first circular bearing track, said bearing track including a plurality of bearings disposed in said first bearing track, said plurality of bearings permitting said first rectangular lower mounting plate to rotate with respect to said first rectangular upper mounting plate; and,

b. said second swivel body comprises:

- i. a second rectangular lower mounting plate mounted by mounting means in a spaced relationship to said first rectangular upper mounting plate;
- ii. a second rectangular upper mounting plate mounted by mounting means in a spaced relationship to said bottom surface of the seat body; and,
- iii. a second circular bearing track, said bearing track including a plurality of bearings disposed in said second bearing track, said plurality of bearings permitting said second rectangular lower mounting plate to rotate with respect to said second rectangular upper mounting plate.

5. The apparatus as claimed in claim 4, wherein said means for controlling the rotation of the seat body comprises:

- a. a first control member mounted between the bottom surface of the seat body and said second rectangular upper mounting plate;

- b. a second control member mounted between the first rectangular upper mounting plate and the second rectangular lower mounting plate; and,
 - c. a third control member.
- 6. The apparatus as claimed in claim 5, wherein said third control member comprises a vertical pin member held in a sliding relationship with a sleeve fixed to said first control member, and wherein the third control member is biased by biasing means within said sleeve.
- 7. The apparatus as claimed in claim 6, wherein the third control member has a first retracted position and a second engaged position, whereby:
 - a. in said first retracted position, the third control member is disengaged from the second control member and the second swivel body is free to rotate with respect to the first swivel body; and,
 - b. in said second engaged position, the third control member is engaged with the second control member and the second swivel body is restrained from rotation with respect to the first swivel body.
- 8. The apparatus as claimed in claim 7, wherein the second engaged position includes:
 - a. a first engagement location wherein the seat body faces the bow of the water craft;

- b. a second engagement position, wherein the seat body faces 30 degrees to the starboard side of the water craft; and,
- c. a third engagement position, wherein the seat body faces 30 degrees to the port of the water craft,

wherein in each of the first, second and third engagement positions, the seat body remains fixed with respect to the second swivel body but rotatable with respect to the first swivel body.

- 9. The apparatus as claimed in claim 8, wherein said first control member comprises a first flat plate having a longitudinal axis, said first flat plate having a paddle shape, said paddle shape including four contiguous and congruent portions comprising a shaft portion, a throat portion, a blade portion and tip portion, wherein:
 - a. said shaft portion has a first end having a first width, a first side and a second, wherein said first side and said second side are parallel and wherein said first end is disposed perpendicular between the first side and the second side;
 - b. said throat portion has a third side and a fourth side, wherein said third side and said fourth side are incurvate;

- c. said blade portion has a fifth side and a sixth side, wherein said fifth side and said sixth side are arcuate, and,
 - d. said tip portion is linear and disposed between the fifth side and the sixth side, perpendicular to the longitudinal axis and parallel to said first end.
- 10. The apparatus as claimed in claim 9, wherein the shaft portion includes an aperture located adjacent to the first end and upon the longitudinal axis.
- 11. The apparatus as claimed in claim 10, wherein the blade portion includes:
 - a. a first elongate aperture having a first aperture longitudinal axis, wherein said first aperture longitudinal axis has a first acclivity of about negative 45 degrees from the first control member longitudinal axis, and further wherein said first elongate aperture is located close to the fifth side; and,
 - b. a second elongate aperture having a second aperture longitudinal axis, wherein said second aperture longitudinal axis has a second acclivity of about positive 45 degrees from the first control member longitudinal axis, and further wherein said second elongate aperture is located close to the sixth side.
- 12. The apparatus as claimed in claim 11, wherein the blade portion is mounted between the bottom surface of the seat body and the second rectangular upper mounting plate

13. The apparatus as claimed in claim 12, wherein said second control member comprises a second flat plate having a second flat plate longitudinal axis, a top surface and a bottom surface, wherein said second flat plate has a substantially keystone shape including a flat bottom side, a lower left corner, a lower right corner, an arcuate top side, a top left corner, a top right corner, a left side inclined away from said second flat plate horizontal axis, and a right side inclined away from the second flat plate horizontal axis.
14. The apparatus as claimed in claim 13, wherein said second control member further includes:
 - a. a first elongate aperture located proximate to said lower left corner;
 - b. a second elongate aperture located proximate to said lower right corner;
 - c. a third aperture located proximate to said left side, said third aperture including a raised collar;
 - d. a fourth aperture located adjacent to said third aperture and proximate to said left side, said fourth aperture including a raised collar;
 - e. a fifth elongate aperture located proximate to said top left corner;
 - f. a sixth elongate aperture located proximate to said top right corner; and,

- g. a seventh aperture located at the top end of the longitudinal axis of the second control member.
- 15. The apparatus as claimed in claim 14, wherein the second control member further includes:
 - a. a first rectangular projection projecting from said top left corner;
 - b. a second rectangular projection projecting from the middle of said arcuate top surface along the said longitudinal axis; and,
 - c. a third rectangular projection projecting from said top right corner, wherein said first, second and third rectangular projections are adapted as sighting guides so that an operator can visually guide the third control member into engagement with the second control member.
- 16. The apparatus as claimed in claim 15, wherein the second control member is mounted by mounting means between the first rectangular upper mounting plate and the second rectangular lower mounting member.
- 17. The apparatus as claimed in claim 16, wherein said means for transmitting said body use motion commands from the seat body to said outboard motor comprise:

- a. a control rod having a first threaded end and a second threaded end;
- b. means for connecting said control rod first threaded end to the second control member; and,
- c. means for connecting said control rod second threaded end to the outboard motor.

18. The apparatus as claimed in claim 17, wherein said means for connecting the control rod first end to the second control member comprises:

- a. a clevis comprising:
 - i. a base having a threaded aperture adapted to receive the control rod first threaded end;
 - ii. a first tine fixed to said base, said first tine having an first arcuate free end, said first arcuate free end having a first tine first aperture;
 - iii. a second tine fixed to the base opposite to and parallel to said first tine, said second tine having a second arcuate free end, said second arcuate free end having a second tine second aperture;

wherein the clevis is adapted to receive the left side of the control member between the first and second tines, and wherein said first tine first aperture and said second tine second aperture are co-axially aligned with the control plate third aperture;

- b. a pin member adapted for releasable engagement within the co-axially aligned first tine first aperture, second tine second aperture and second control member third aperture thereby fixing the control rod first end to the second control member in a pivoting relationship.
19. The apparatus as claimed in claim 18, wherein the control rod first end is fixed to the second control plate fourth aperture in a pivoting relationship.
20. The apparatus as claimed in claim 19, wherein said means for connecting the control rod second end to the outboard motor comprises:
 - a. a second clevis comprising:
 - i. a second base having a second threaded aperture adapted to receive the control rod second threaded end;
 - ii. a third tine fixed to said second base, said third tine having an third arcuate free end, said third arcuate free end having a third tine third aperture;

- iii. a fourth tine fixed to the second base opposite to and parallel to said third tine, said fourth tine having a fourth arcuate free end, said fourth arcuate free end having a fourth tine fourth aperture;
- b. a bracket arm having a longitudinal axis, a first half and a second half, said first half having at least two apertures positioned vertically; said second half having at least two apertures positioned vertically and one threaded longitudinal bore adapted to receive a threaded rod;
- c. a friction clamp adapted to clamp around the vertical shaft casing of said outboard motor, said friction clamp having a collar portion adapted to frictionally engage said vertical shaft casing and two adjacent and parallel arms apertured to receive said threaded rod;
- d. a throttling nut adapted for threaded engagement onto the threaded rod so that said two adjacent and parallel arms are between said throttling nut and said bracket second end, so that when the throttling nut is rotated towards the bracket second end the two adjacent and parallel arms are compressed together thereby tightening the collar about the vertical shaft casing; and,
- e. a pin for releasably pinning the bracket first end between the third tine and the fourth tine in a pivoting relationship.